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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

India

SUBJECT

Hindustan Motors, Ltd, Calcutta

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PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE

INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, conditions described in report existed)

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1. At Hindustan Motors, Ltd, [REDACTED] Mr D C Lahoty, Supply Manager, and Mr W D Jones, Director of Manufacturing and Production, and [REDACTED] at the plant. It seemed well equipped with modern machinery.

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2. They manufacture a Hindustan car and assemble Studebaker-Packard Corporation vehicles. They were producing 15 Hindustan cars per day or 4,500 yearly, although they have an annual capacity of 10,000 cars, working but one shift. They were also assembling 1,200 4 x 4 Studebaker trucks for the Indian Army.
3. This plant, together with other automotive interests of the Birla family, produces about 70% of the parts and equipment for the Hindustan car but only a few, such as fenders and gas tanks, for the Studebaker trucks.
4. It was significant that they were losing money on the Hindustan line but making money on the Studebaker assembled jobs. Their future did not look bright, once the army order is finished at the end of March.
5. Mr Jones stated the company had begun making too many items of small volume and the plant operation was quite inefficient. He also mentioned they had been bothered by lack of materials.

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